

# Tree Nursery wins award

Earlier this year the Little Assynt Tree Nursery project won national recognition for community involvement and professionalism. It was awarded Highly Commended in the Community Woodlands section of Scotland's Finest Woods Awards. Anna MacKay (CCWT's Chair) and Viv Halcrow (CALL Project Manager) received the award from Paul Wheelhouse, MSP, Minister for the Environment at a presentation at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh. This is the second time an award of this nature has come to Assynt. Back in 2004 CCWT was Commended in the Small Woods category for good forestry practice. Well done to all the Tree Nursery staff and volunteers for creating such a successful project.



Now that the nursery is firmly established the next step is to sell trees. Nick and Romanya have been working hard to produce lo-

cally sourced and grown trees and the first few thousand are now ready for sale. Contact Nick at the Tree Nursery if you are interested in purchasing some of the first CALL trees. [nccooney@coigach-assynt.org](mailto:nccooney@coigach-assynt.org)

## Trees of Culag Wood Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

The Scots pine is the iconic tree of the Caledonian Pine Forest. In Scotland it grows to typically 20 metres in height with some reaching 27 metres. The bark is a distinguishing feature, in young trees being paper thin and orange-red in colour with mature bark darker and consisting of deeply fissured layered plates.

The needles which are blue green in colour and about 5 cm long, last about 2-3 years falling in September/October. Each tree carries male and female flowers appearing in May. A mature tree will produce cones every 3-5 years. The shape of a Scots pine is very variable ranging from the young conical forms to mature flat or round topped shapes. The trunks also differ being either straight and tall through to various multiple trunked spreading shapes.

The timber was used for building purposes and popular folklore prevented the trees being felled during a waning moon. This had an affect on the sap content which when high would reduce the decay rate of the timber.



# How wild can we go?

Lochinver School took part in a day of discovering How wild can we go? in Cullag Wood. The whole school spent time with the Highland Council Rangers, Cullag Wood Project Officer and Tree Nursery Outreach Officer exploring and finding out about the different kinds of animals that live and used to live in the area. If you had been wandering around Assynt several hundred years ago you may have come across bears, lynx, wolves, beavers, red squirrels along with more familiar red deer, badgers and foxes. This activity was part of a larger event discussing whether reintroduction of once common species should be happening in Scotland. An evening debate

organised by local author Mandy Haggith, at Glencanisp Lodge was well attended by those who came to hear opinions of experts such as Roy Dennis, who has been involved with reintroduction projects and Jim Crumley, nature writer and author of The Last Wolf.



# Woody Group dates for your diary

Like the idea of fresh air and exercise? Why not join the Woody Group, a happy band of volunteers who meet fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons to undertake light maintenance work in Cullag Woods or at Little Assynt. Sessions start at 1pm and usually last a couple of hours—refreshments are provided. Dates for the coming season are:

<b>2nd October 2013</b>	<b>8th January 2014</b>
<b>16th October</b>	<b>22nd January</b>
<b>30th October</b>	<b>5th February</b>
<b>13th November</b>	<b>19th February</b>
<b>27th November</b>	<b>5th March</b>
<b>11th December</b>	<b>19th March</b>
	<b>2nd April</b>



**Meet at the container in the Cullag Wood Main Car Park unless otherwise posted**  
**For More Information Contact Mel Chapman on 01571 844424**

## CCWT stall at the Made in Assynt Christmas Market 29th & 30th November

With only a couple of months until Christmas some of us may already be turning our thoughts to festive decorations and gifts for friends and families. This year why not come along to the Christmas Market in Lochinver Village Hall for a wealth of individual, unique and handcrafted ideas.

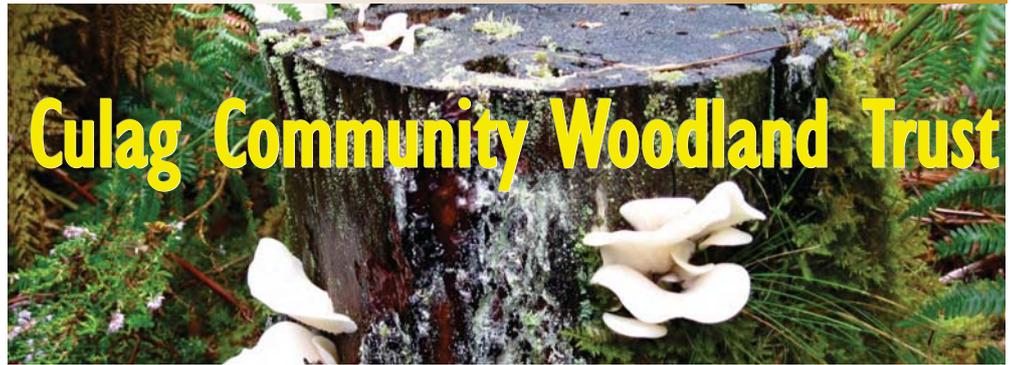


The CCWT stall will be full of interesting and affordable gift & decorative items. For the best dressed front door in Assynt come and choose a locally handmade **Christmas wreath** or for making sure you get that fire going easily, pick up some of our attractive **pine cone firelighters**. And as all our readers know being a member of CCWT is an affordable and worthwhile local subscription so why not treat a friend or family member to a gift which lasts 365 days longer than a box of Christmas chocolates! **Gift membership cards** will be on sale at the stall too.

### Contact:

Get in touch with your news and views  
01571 844368  
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## Culag Community Woodland Trust



## A major step forward for the CALL Landscape Partnership

News has just been released that the CALLP application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £3 million has been approved. This funding is to cover a period of 5 years and will help to deliver the Landscape Partnership's projects in the Coigach and Assynt areas. Work will now begin with the recruitment and employment of a Development Manager and Assistant to develop the projects fully for stage 2 of the process and to find that ever-important match funding. The projects will start in 2015 with further direct employment opportunities and requirement for local contractors and consultants.

CCWT's role within the partnership is to lead the Outdoor and Woodland Learning project. The aim is to work closely with the local schools and other CALL partners to deliver high quality outdoor learning integrated within the curriculum in line with the

Highland Council and Scottish Government's strategies.

Congratulations to all who worked so hard on the application. Have a small celebration before the hard work starts again!



## Sponsor a bench & support your local woodland

The fabulous new benches installed in Culag Wood are available for sponsorship. There is a choice of nine benches and four picnic benches in great locations throughout the woodland. There are also two picnic benches up for grabs at Little Assynt, along the Leitir Easaidh (All Abilities path). Each sponsor can choose the bench they wish to support and the wording on the plaque (an example is shown below).



The benches have been sited at points along the path network where a rest may be required and also to take advantage of the great views and relaxing atmosphere. Why not have a wander around the woodland and pick out your favourite before contacting us at the CCWT office to word your plaque. With Christmas approaching, this would also make a unique gift for friends and fam-

ily. It's a great way to support your local community woodland whilst providing a lasting facility for all visitors who use the paths. Both types of benches are available for the same price at £200. Please contact our Project Officer, Fiona, at the office (details on the left) where a map showing the location of the benches can be viewed. We will also be at the CCWT stall at the Made in Assynt Christmas Market in Lochinver Village Hall on the 29th and 30th November.

